

THE



SANDBMAN ♦ UNIVERSE

NIGHTMARE COUNTRY The GLASS HOUSE

4



BLACK
LABEL

17+
MATURE

James Tynion IV
Lisandro Estherren
Patricio Delpeche

**A CITY-SPANNING CONFLICT THAT
WILL CRACK THE BAT-FAMILY IN HALF!**

**BATMAN/CATWOMAN
THE GOTHAM WAR**

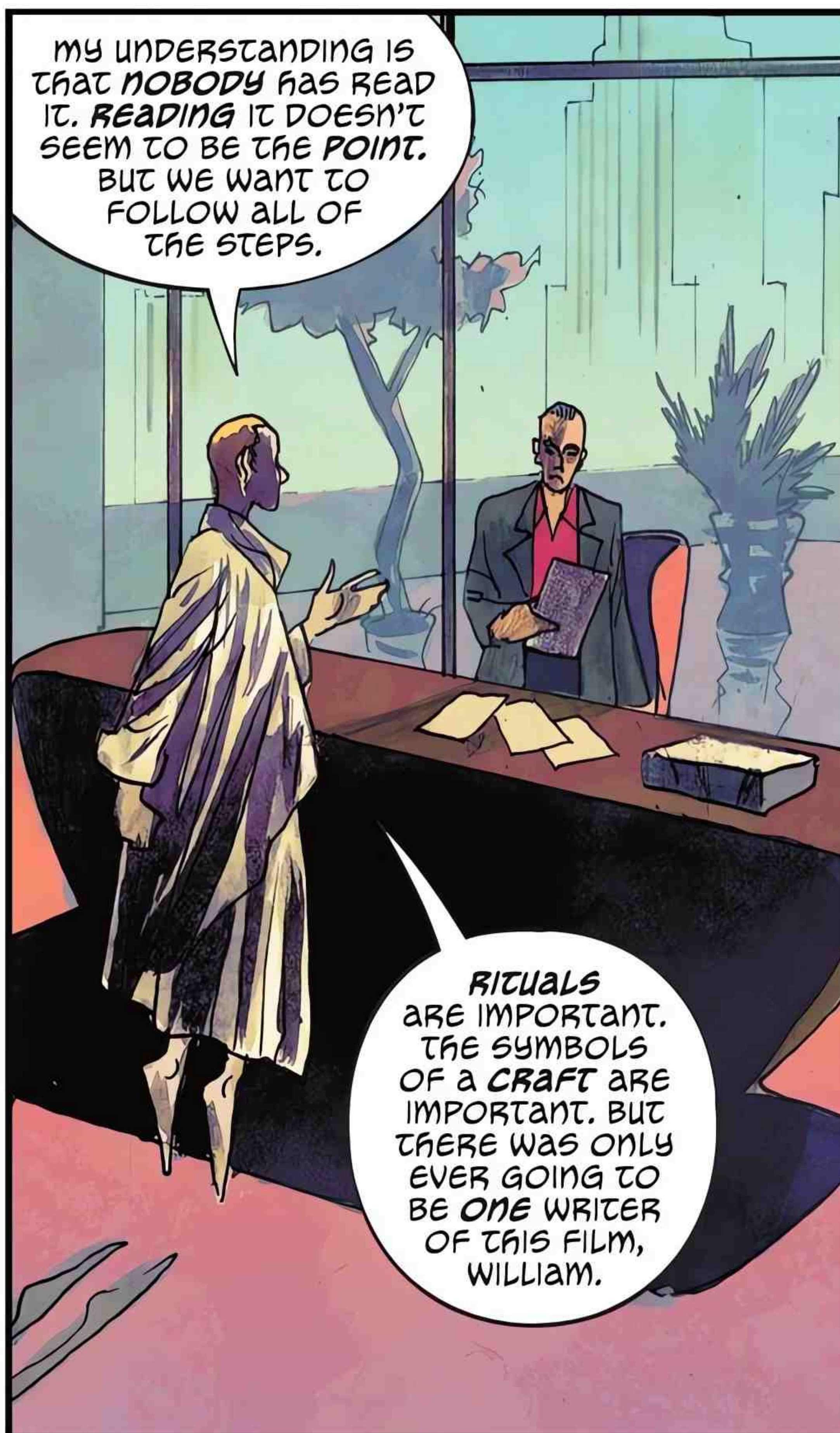
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**THE TWO-MONTH
BATTLE BEGINS
IN AUGUST WITH
BATMAN/CATWOMAN:
THE GOTHAM WAR:
BATTLE LINES #1**

**Written by
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NICO LEON
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THEN WHAT WAS
THE FUCKING **POINT?**
WITH THE **GIRL** AND
EVERYTHING? WHY
DID WE **NEED**
HER?



A STORY TOUCHED
BY **DREAM** HIMSELF
HAS MORE **POWER**
THAN ANOTHER
STORY.

AND OUR
STORY **MUST** BE
POWERFUL.

I DON'T
LIKE HAVING MY
TIME WASTED.
WRITING SOUNDS
TEDIOUS.

IF YOU
WANT THE **POWER**
I'M OFFERING, YOU
WILL HAVE TO DO
THE WORK.



I'M NOT A
WRITER.



THAT'S
WHY WHAT YOU
WRITE WILL BE
ALL THE **MORE**
IMPRESSIVE.

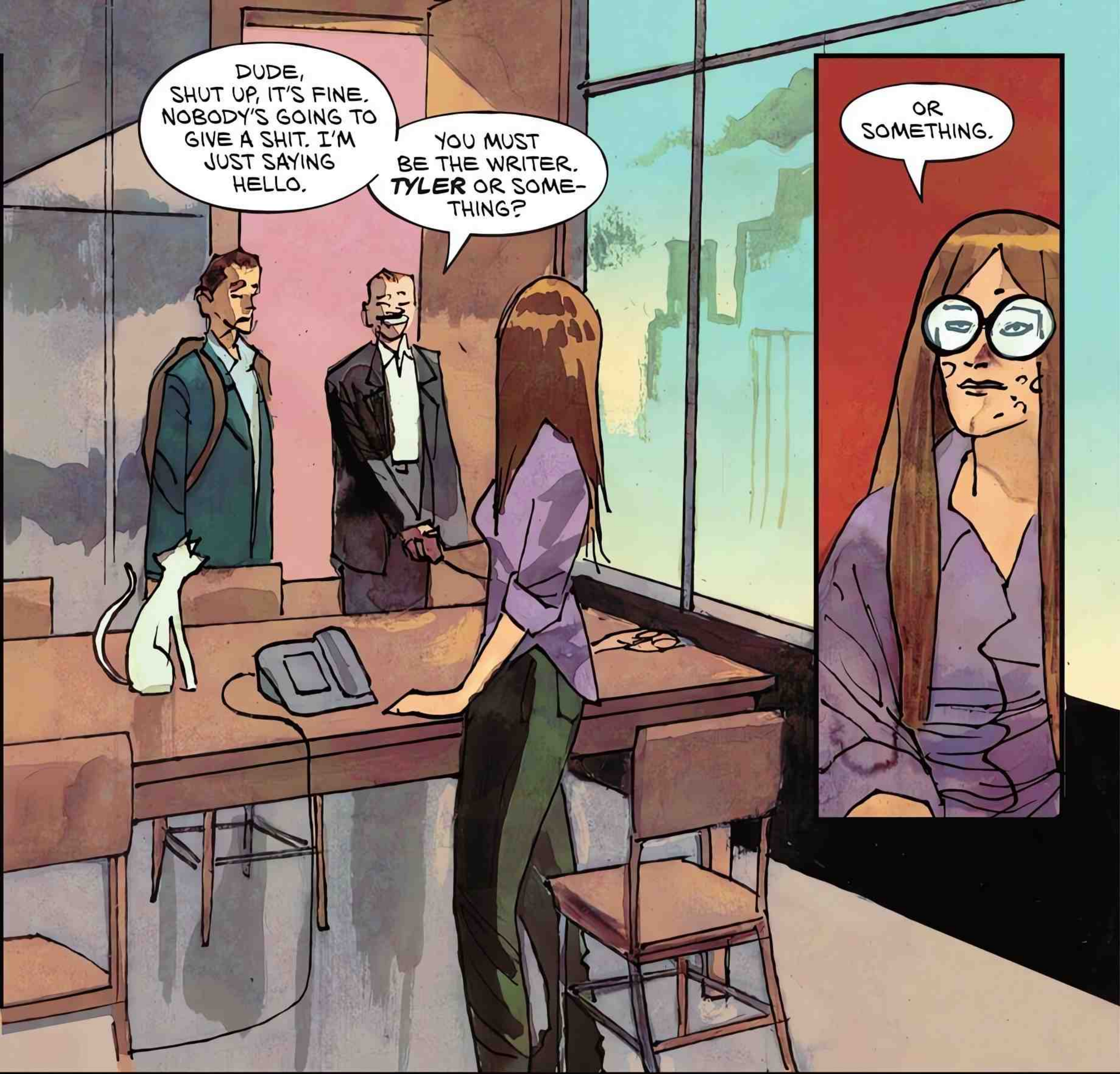


BUT YOU SAID WE
NEEDED TO DO **ALL**
THE STEPS. WHY **AREN'T**
WE MEETING WITH THIS
DAMNED WRITER, EVEN IF
IT'S JUST TO THROW
IT ALL OUT?



BECAUSE
WE HAVE A
PROBLEM.

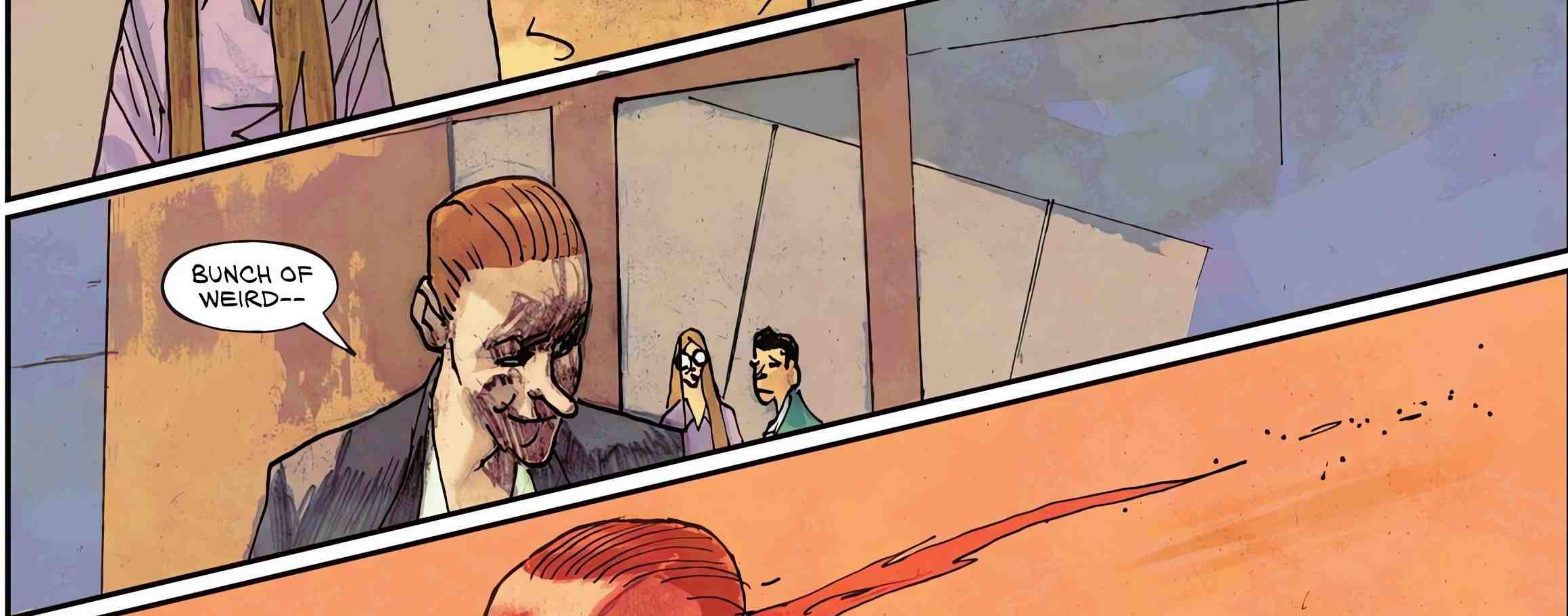






YOU CAN **STOP** HIM
IF YOU WANT, BUT
THEN HE'S WITH US
TO THE END.

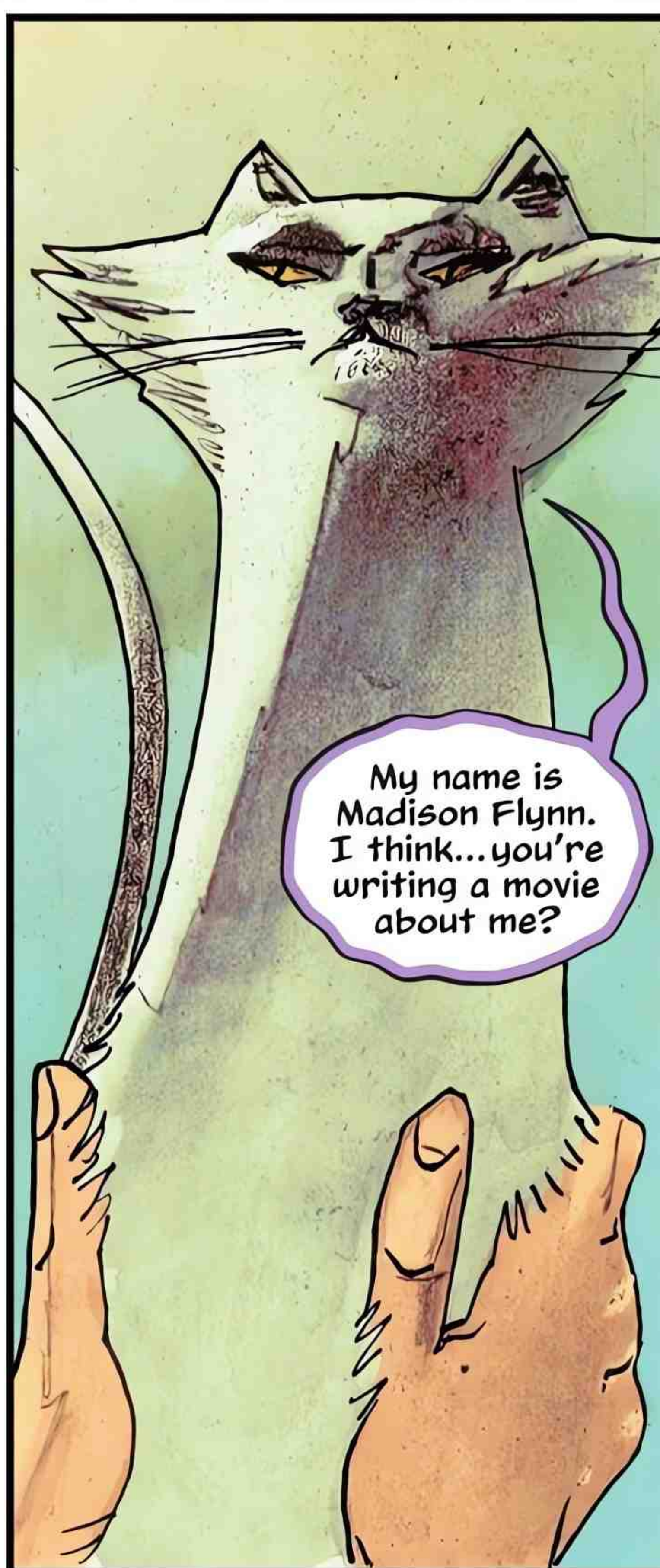
NOTHING
IS GOING TO
HAPPEN.
YOU'RE BEING
RIDICULOUS.

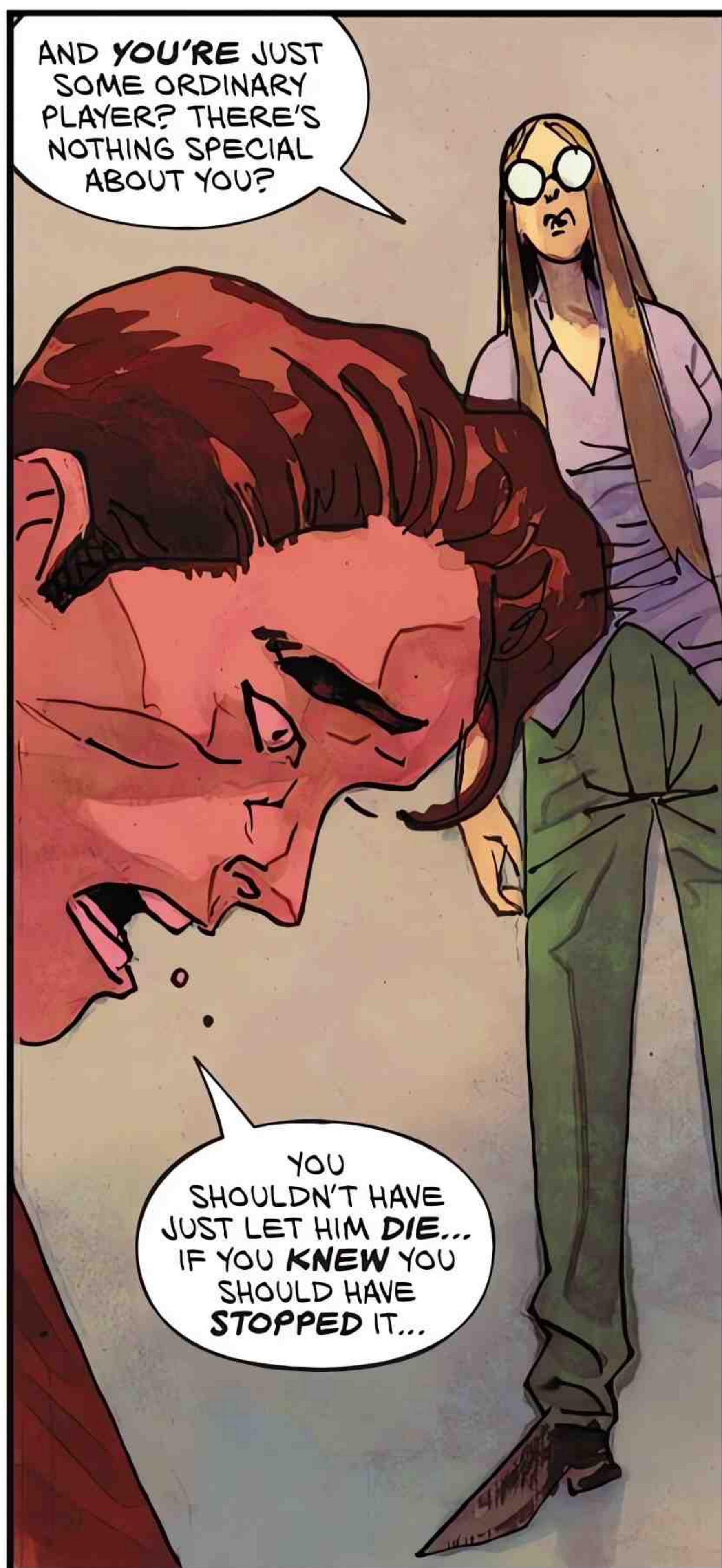


BUNCH OF
WEIRD--



WHAT
THE
FUCK!





AND **YOU'RE** JUST SOME ORDINARY PLAYER? THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT YOU?

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE JUST LET HIM **DIE...** IF YOU **KNEW** YOU SHOULD HAVE **STOPPED** IT...



WHY IS THIS ALL **HAPPENING?** WHY CAN'T MY LIFE JUST BE **FUCKING NORMAL?**



I NEED YOU TO **FOCUS.**

NO. I'M NOT LISTENING TO YOU. I DON'T WANT **ANY** PART OF THIS. NOT ANY-MORE.

THAT'S NOT ONE OF THE **OPTIONS** RIGHT NOW.

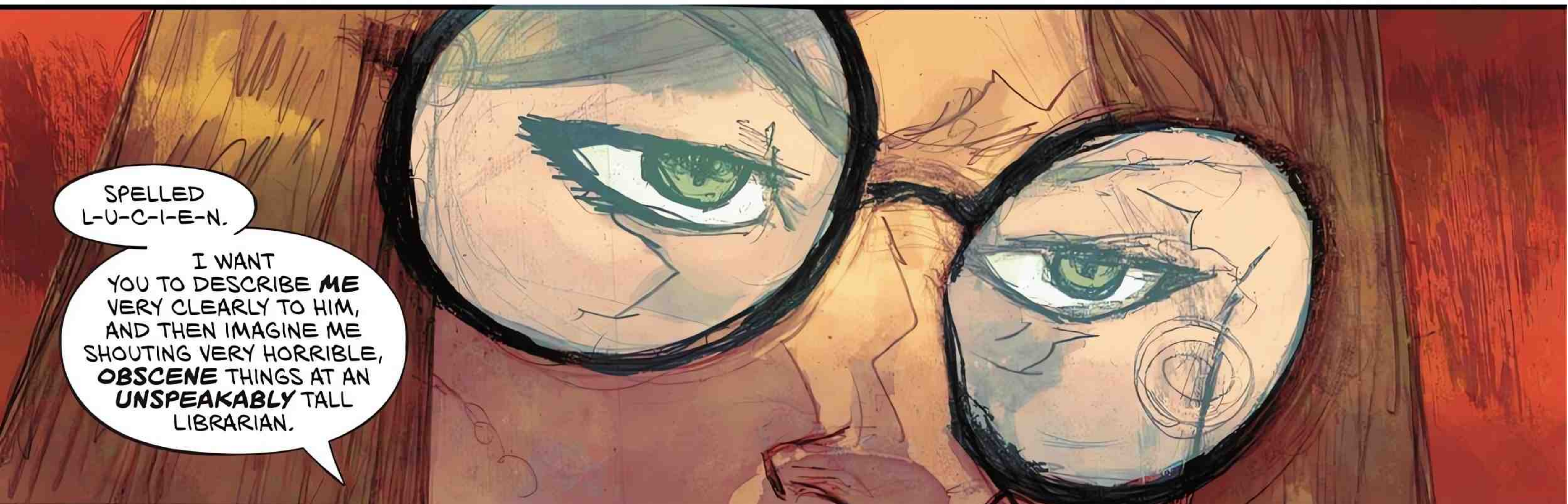
YOU DON'T GET TO OPT OUT, SO I NEED YOU TO **HEAR** WHAT I'M TELLING YOU.



I WANT YOU TO IMAGINE YOURSELF SITTING DOWN AT THIS TABLE AND WRITING A **BOOK.**

THE BOOK IS TITLED **LUCIEN,** WE NEED A WAY OUT.

WHAT?

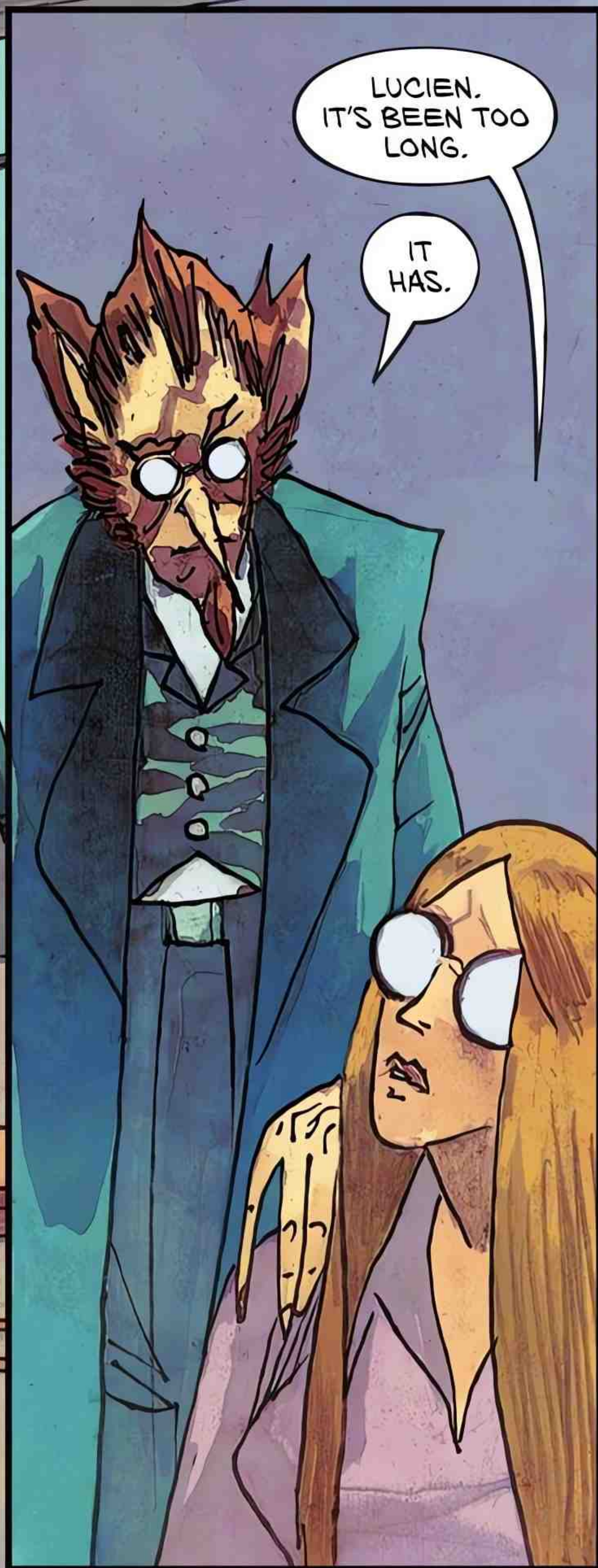


SPELLED L-U-C-I-E-N.

I WANT YOU TO DESCRIBE **ME** VERY CLEARLY TO HIM, AND THEN IMAGINE ME SHOUTING VERY HORRIBLE, **OBSCENE** THINGS AT AN **UNSPEAKABLY** TALL LIBRARIAN.

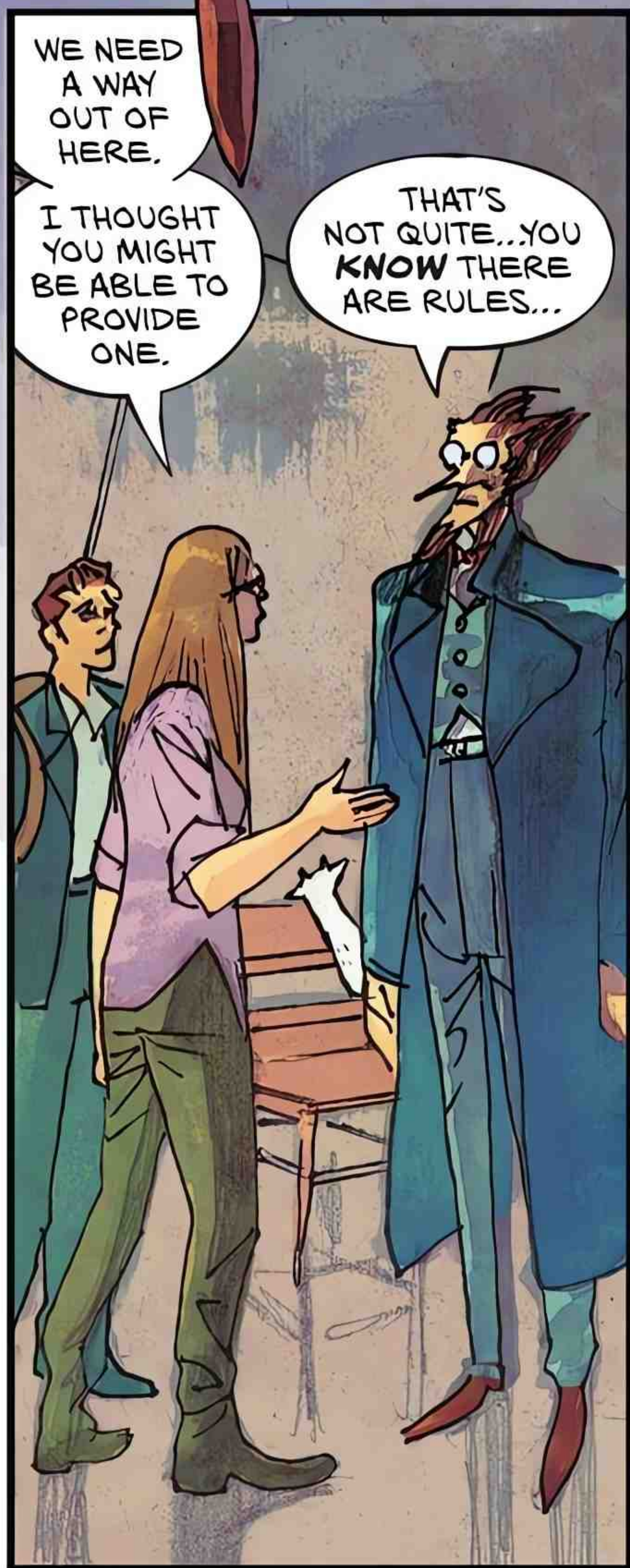


THAT
HARDLY SEEMS
NECESSARY.



LUCIEN.
IT'S BEEN TOO
LONG.

IT
HAS.



WE NEED
A WAY
OUT OF
HERE.

I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
BE ABLE TO
PROVIDE
ONE.

THAT'S
NOT QUITE...YOU
KNOW THERE
ARE RULES...



SEE THE
TROUBLE
WITH THE
DOOR?

HM.
I DO.



I PRESUME THE
DREAM LORD WOULD
LIKE HIS CAT TO GET
THROUGH THIS
UNSCATHED.



THE CORINTHIAN
ISN'T **HERE**, IS
HE?



THE
CORINTHIAN?
WHY WOULD THE
CORINTHIAN BE
HERE?

ISN'T
THAT A GOOD
QUESTION.



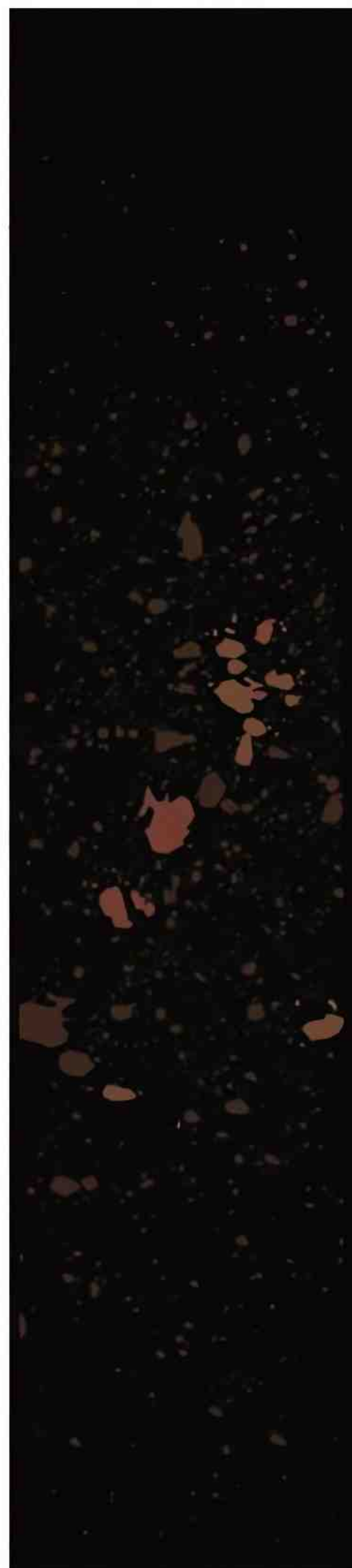
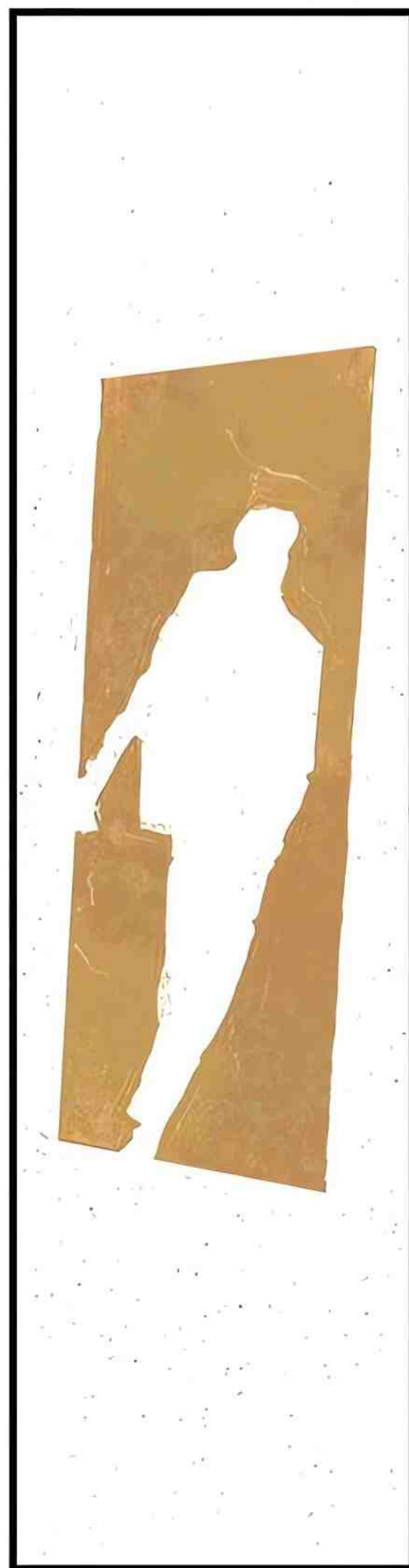
He's investigating
this nightclub.

I FEARED
THAT MIGHT BE
THE CASE. THIS IS
GETTING **TERRIBLY**
MESSY, ISN'T IT?



OH,
VERY WELL.
I'M NOT JUST
GOING TO LET
YOU **DIE**.

BUT
LET'S BE
QUICK ABOUT
IT, SHALL
WE?



THE

SANDMAN ♦ UNIVERSE

NIGHTMARE COUNTRY The GLASS HOUSE

JAMES TYNION IV *writer*
LISANDRO ESTHERREN *artist*
PATRICIO DELPECHE *colors*
SIMON BOWLAND *lettering*

CHRIS CONROY *and* ANDREA SHEA
editors

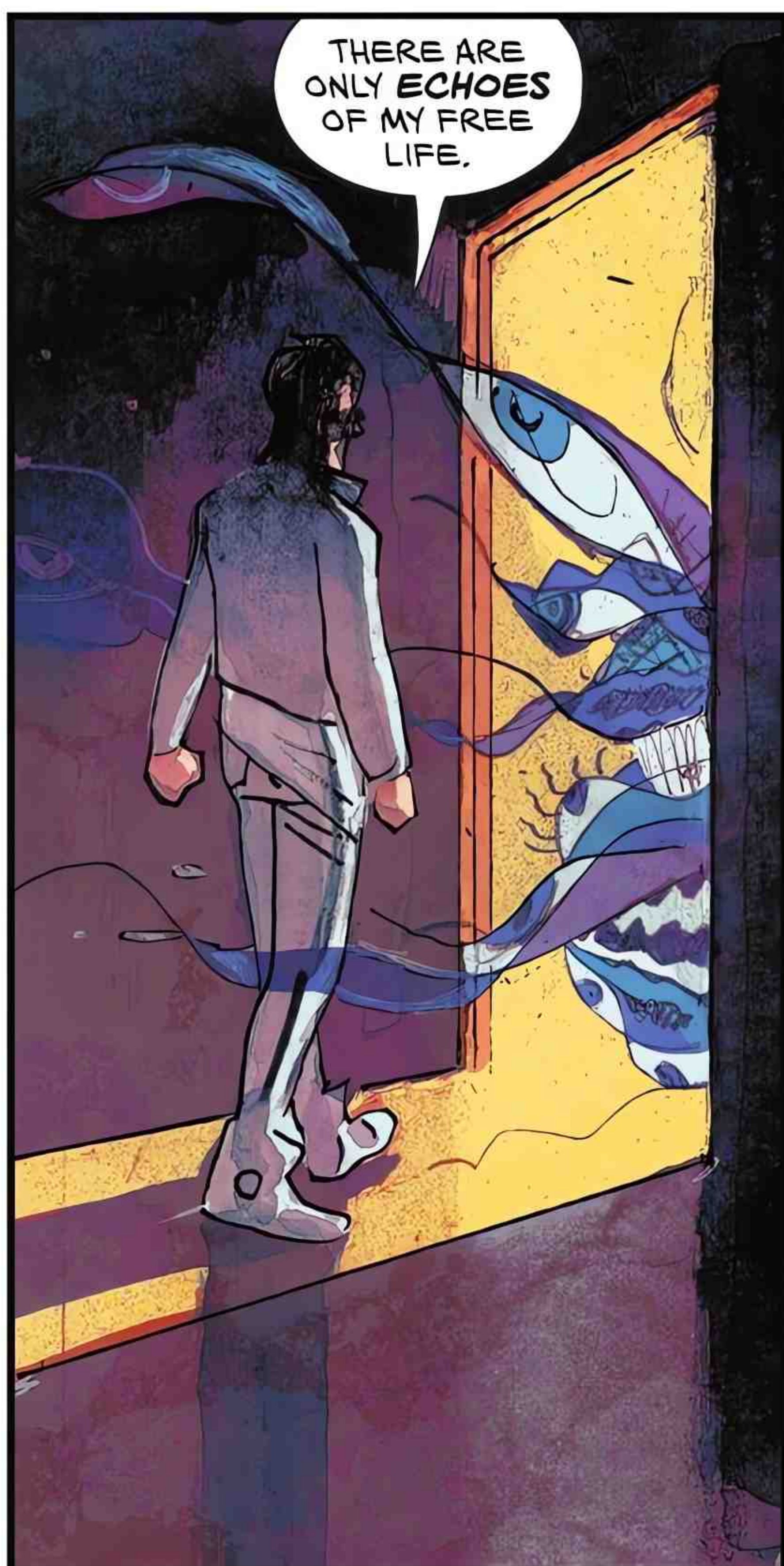
REIKO MURAKAMI *cover*
MATTEO SCALERA & DAVE STEWART *variant cover*
CATHY KWAN 1:25 *variant cover*

based on characters created by
NEIL GAIMAN, SAM KIETH, *and* MIKE DRINGENBERG
THE SANDMAN UNIVERSE *curated by* NEIL GAIMAN



DO YOU
REMEMBER
YOUR LAST KILL,
CORINTHIAN? YOUR
LAST **TRUE**
KILL?

UNBIDDEN
BY YOUR MASTER.
BLOOD TAKEN WITH
YOUR **OWN** TWO
HANDS.



THERE ARE
ONLY **ECHOES**
OF MY FREE
LIFE.



BUT YOU
REMEMBER THE
FEELING.



I REMEMBER
THE FEELING
VERY WELL. THE
EXCITEMENT.
THE **GAME**
OF IT.

ARE YOU
READY TO PLAY
AGAIN?



DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
THE FUCKING
CAT. I'M TAKING
CARE OF THE
CAT.

YOU DIDN'T
SIDE WITH JUST
ANYBODY. WE
ARE **SERIOUS**
PLAYERS.

AND WE
ARE MAKING
A **SERIOUS**
PLAY.



IT'S
AN IDEA.
A **GOOD**
IDEA.

GOOD
FOR
WHO?



GOOD
FOR **US**.
GOOD FOR
YOU.



AND
WHOSE IDEA
IS IT?



WATCH
YOUR **TONE**,
LITTLE NIGHTMARE.
YOU DON'T NEED
TO WORRY ABOUT
ANY OF THAT.

TO YOU,
THIS IS A PLAYGROUND.
THAT'S ALL THAT'S
IMPORTANT. PUT THE REST
OUT OF YOUR MIND. YOU
HAVE NO SOUL FOR
ME TO **TRICK** YOU
OUT OF.



TAKE YOUR
PAYMENT. YOU
LIKE THEIR
EYES, DON'T
YOU?



WHAT'S THE
MATTER? ISN'T THIS
ONE **PRETTY** ENOUGH
FOR YOU? I'LL GET
YOU ANOTHER. WE CAN
GET YOU ANY BOY YOUR
TWISTED MIND CAN
IMAGINE.



I NEED
TO KNOW IF
THE CAT'S
ALIVE.

IF SHE **IS**, NONE
OF THIS IS WORTH
ANYTHING TO ME.
AND I WON'T GIVE
YOU ANYTHING ELSE
YOU'RE ASKING
FOR.



I *really* hate this place.

It gives me a *headache* to look any direction. It's like books and books and books and books, and I can't tell which way is up or which way is down.

TELL ME ABOUT IT, KID!

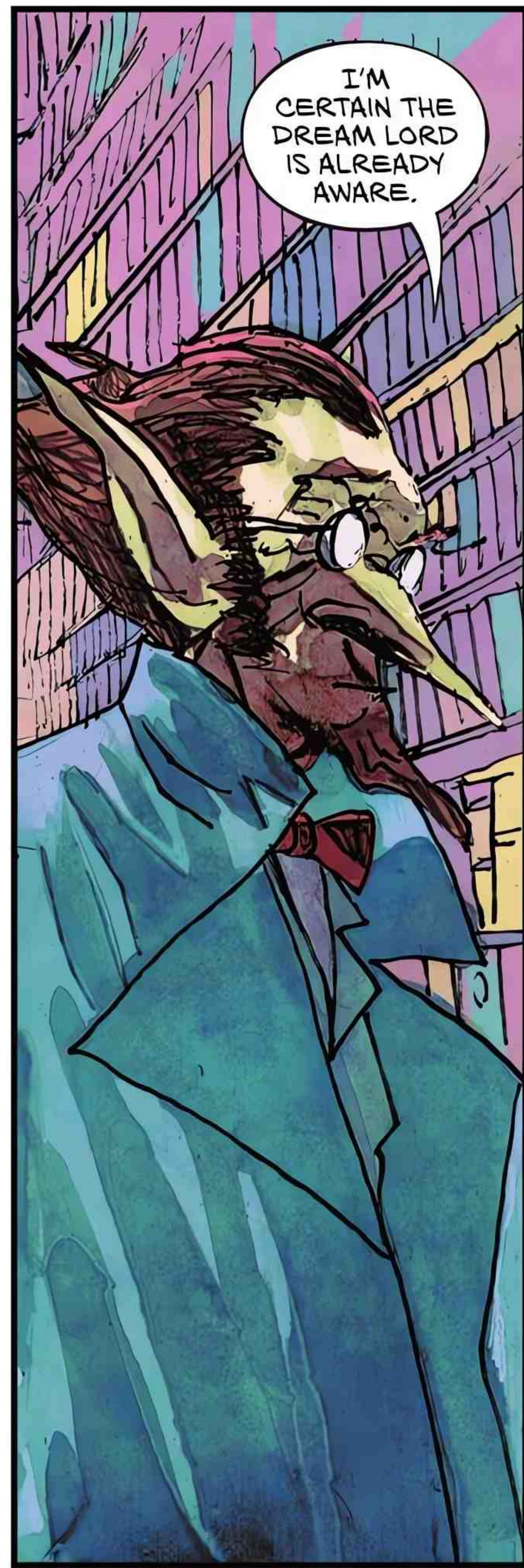
I JUST TRY AND KEEP MY HEAD DOWN AND FOCUS ON THE JOB RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.

WHAT'S *THIS* ONE'S PROBLEM? HE'S LOOKIN' AT ME ALL FUNNY.

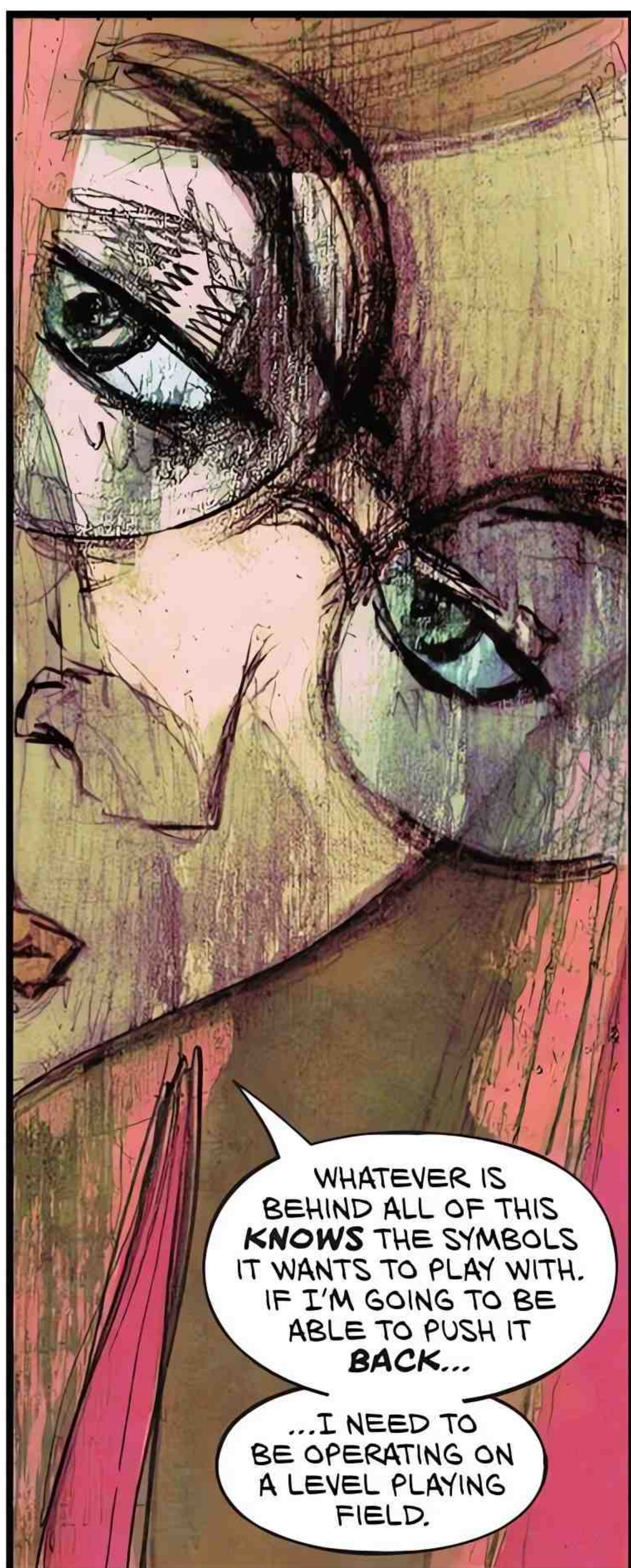
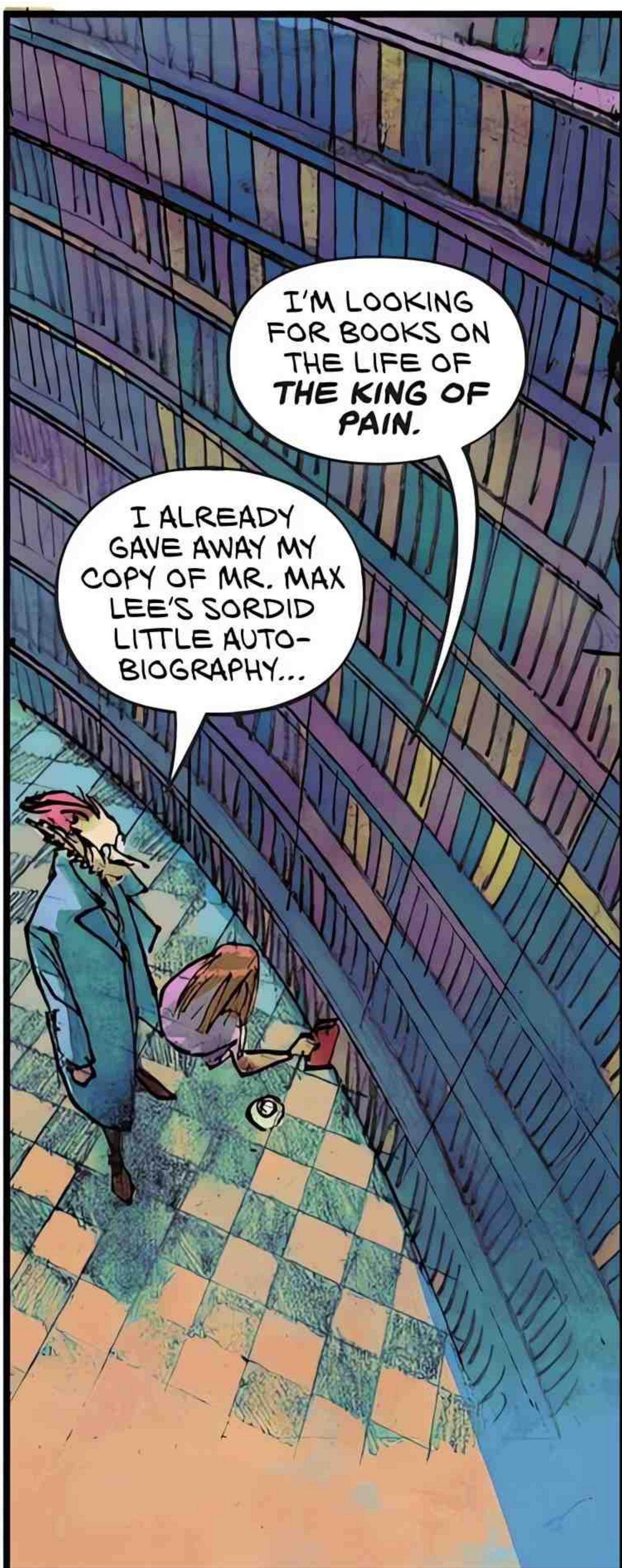
He's *new* here.

WAIT FOR ME!

HEY! KEEP YOUR PAWS OFF THE SCENERY!

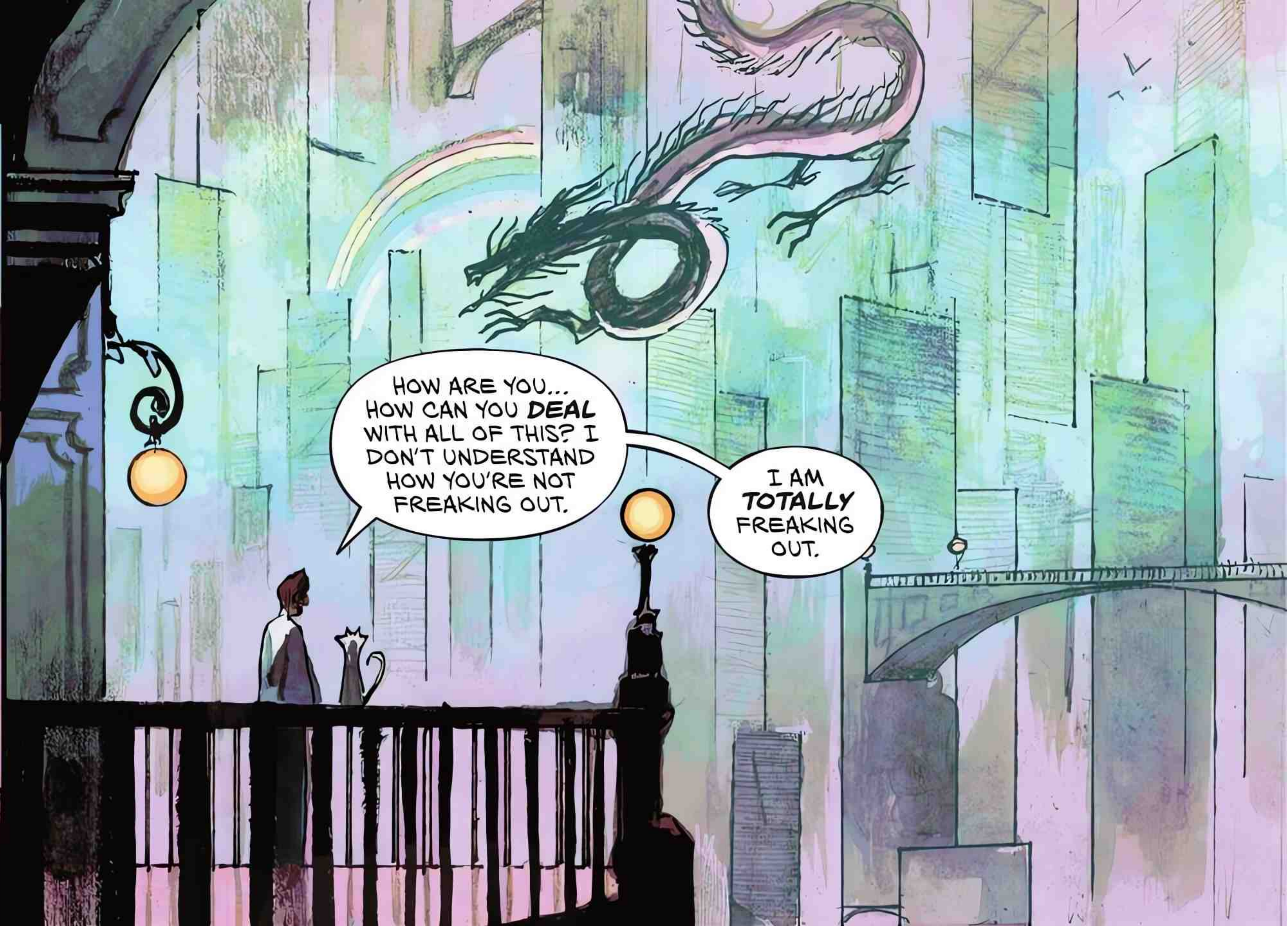


*IN THE UNMISSABLE THE SANDMAN
UNIVERSE SPECIAL: THESSALY #1! --CHRIS



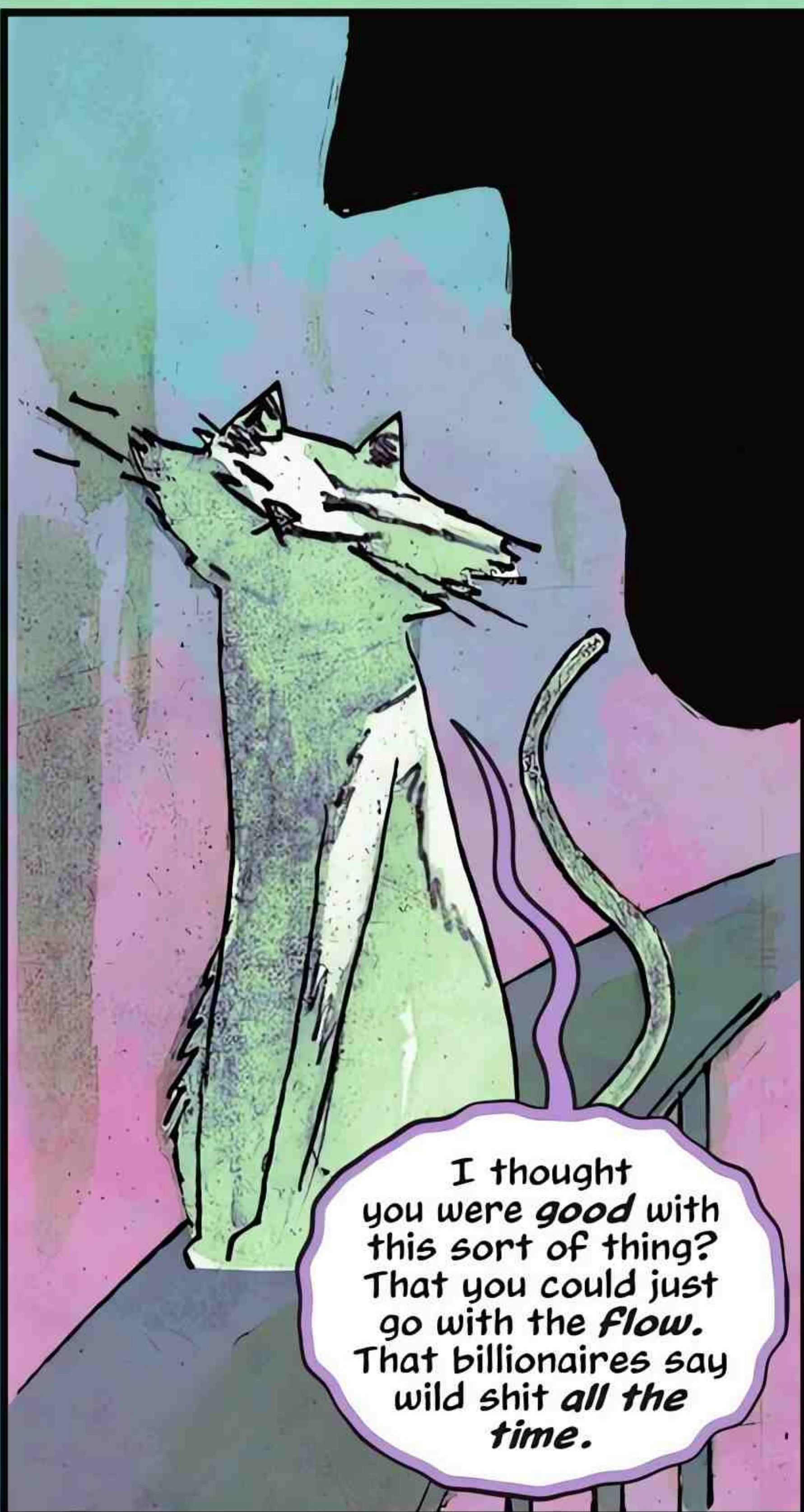


I THINK
I'M GOING
TO THROW
UP.



HOW ARE YOU...
HOW CAN YOU **DEAL**
WITH ALL OF THIS? I
DON'T UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU'RE NOT
FREAKING OUT.

I AM
TOTALLY
FREAKING
OUT.



I thought
you were *good* with
this sort of thing?
That you could just
go with the *flow*.
That billionaires say
wild shit *all the*
time.



I JUST SAW
SOMEONE **SLICED**
TO RIBBONS IN
FRONT OF ME,
FLYNN. A **FRIEND**
OF MINE.



I MEAN, I DIDN'T REALLY **LIKE**
HIM. I THINK HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN
A REALLY BAD GUY, ACTUALLY. BUT
WE LIKE... GRABBED DINNER AND
SHIT. HE TEXTED ME FUNNY
PICTURES.

AND NOW
HE'S **DEAD**. AND A
WEIRD FUCKING **WITCH**
LADY RIPPED HER **FACE**
OFF, AND TOOK ME TO A
FUCKING MAGIC **LIBRARY**
WITH TALKING
PUMPKINS.



AND THE **SANEST** PART
OF MY DAY IS THE BIT WHERE
THIS ANNOYING GIRL I USED TO
BE ON A MESSAGE BOARD
WITH IS A **TALKING**
CAT.



I think that's just kind of how it goes.

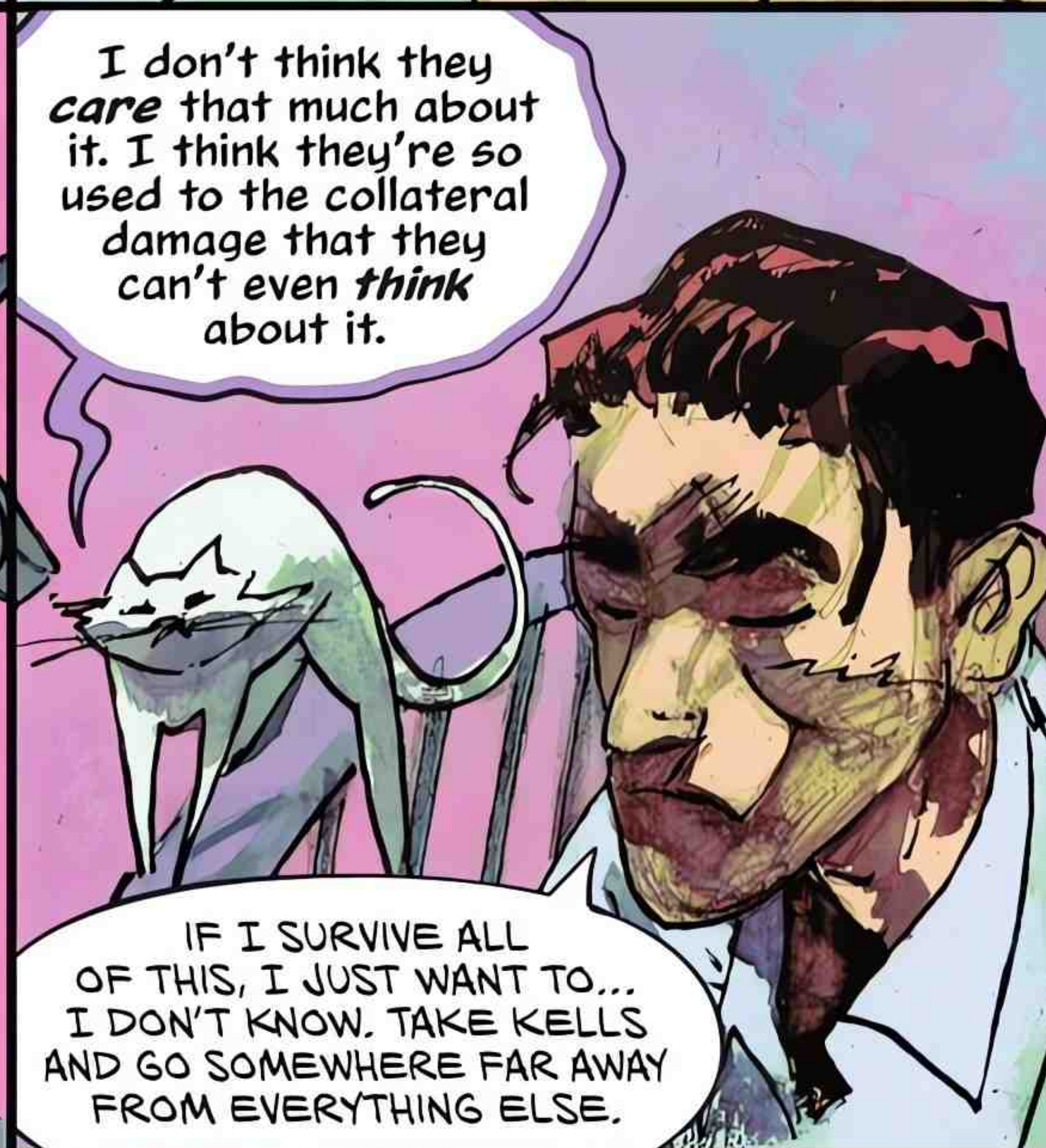


HOW IT GOES?



I think when the *extra-ordinary* bumps up against the *ordinary*, it fucks the ordinary up pretty much *forever*.

I HATE THAT.



I don't think they *care* that much about it. I think they're so used to the collateral damage that they can't even *think* about it.

IF I SURVIVE ALL OF THIS, I JUST WANT TO... I DON'T KNOW. TAKE KELL'S AND GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY FROM EVERYTHING ELSE.



I DON'T WANT THIS LIFE ANYMORE. I DON'T WANT IT TO JUST BE WORK AND CHASING MONEY.

I JUST WANT TO BE **NORMAL** WITH SOMEBODY WHO MAKES ME FEEL **NICE**.



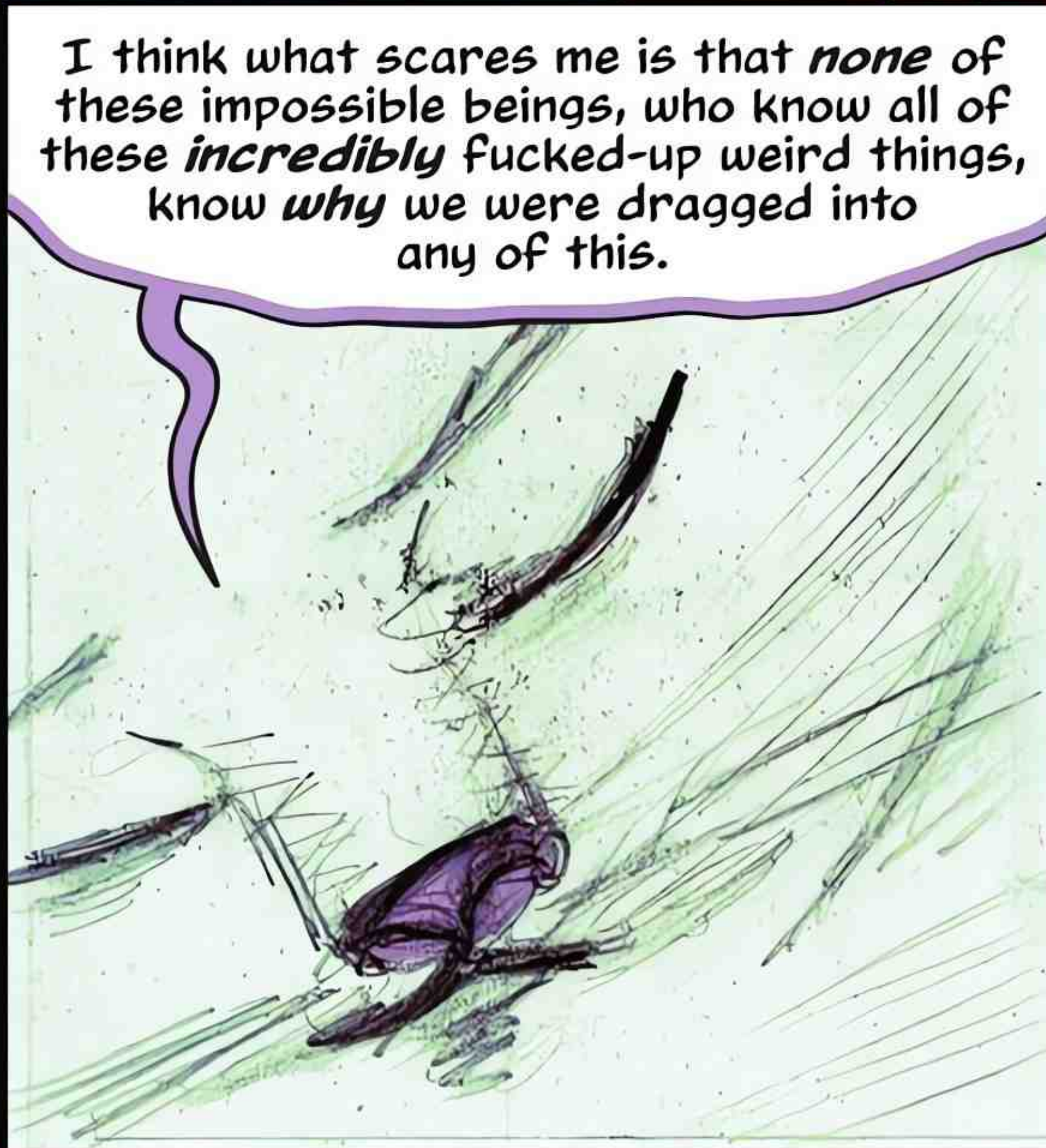
I hope you can get it. I hope *Kells* can, too.

I *might* scratch her a few times for killing me.

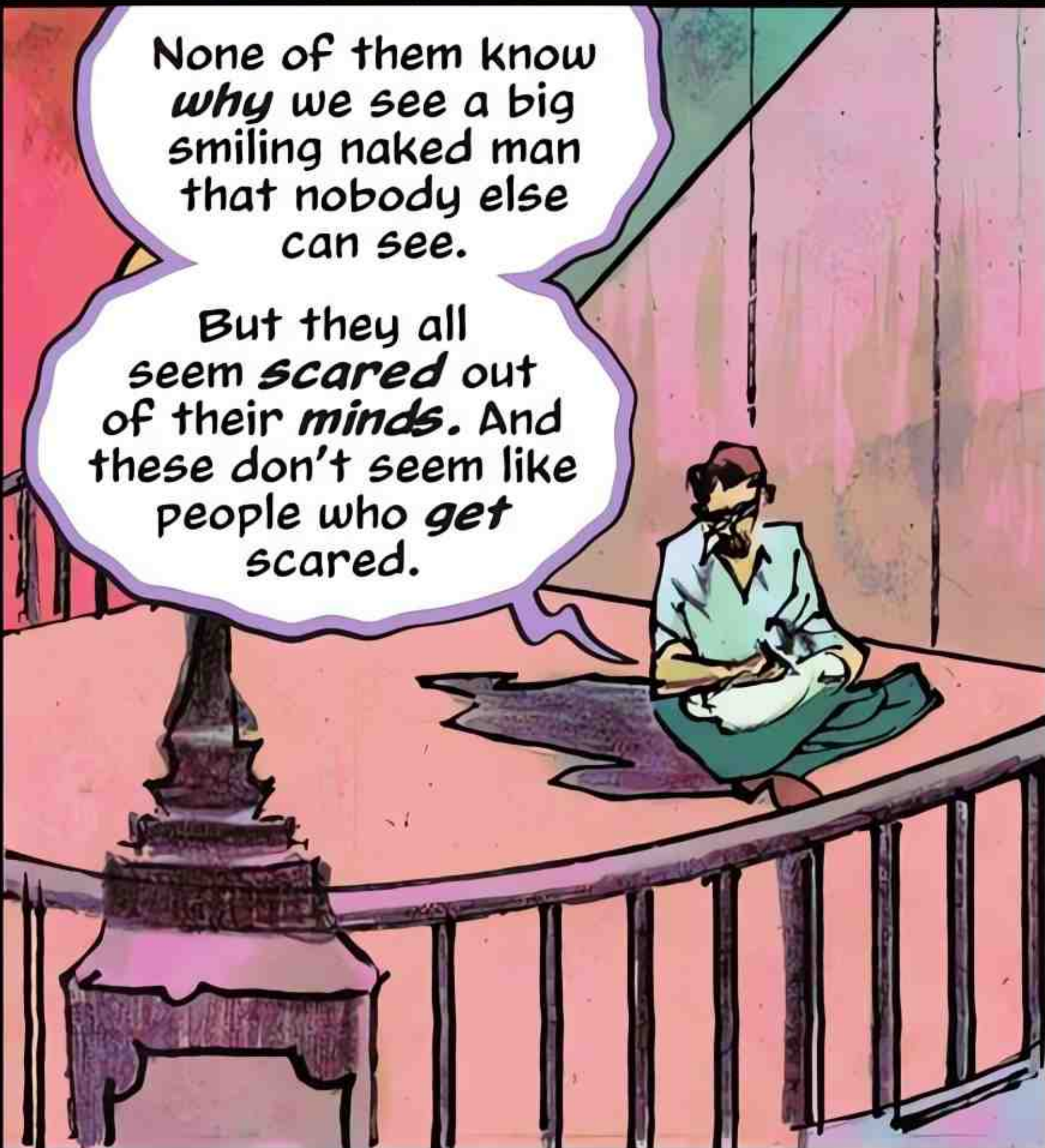


I THOUGHT YOU SAID SHE WASN'T IN CONTROL OF HERSELF?

She's my friend. She'll understand. It's about making *me* feel better.

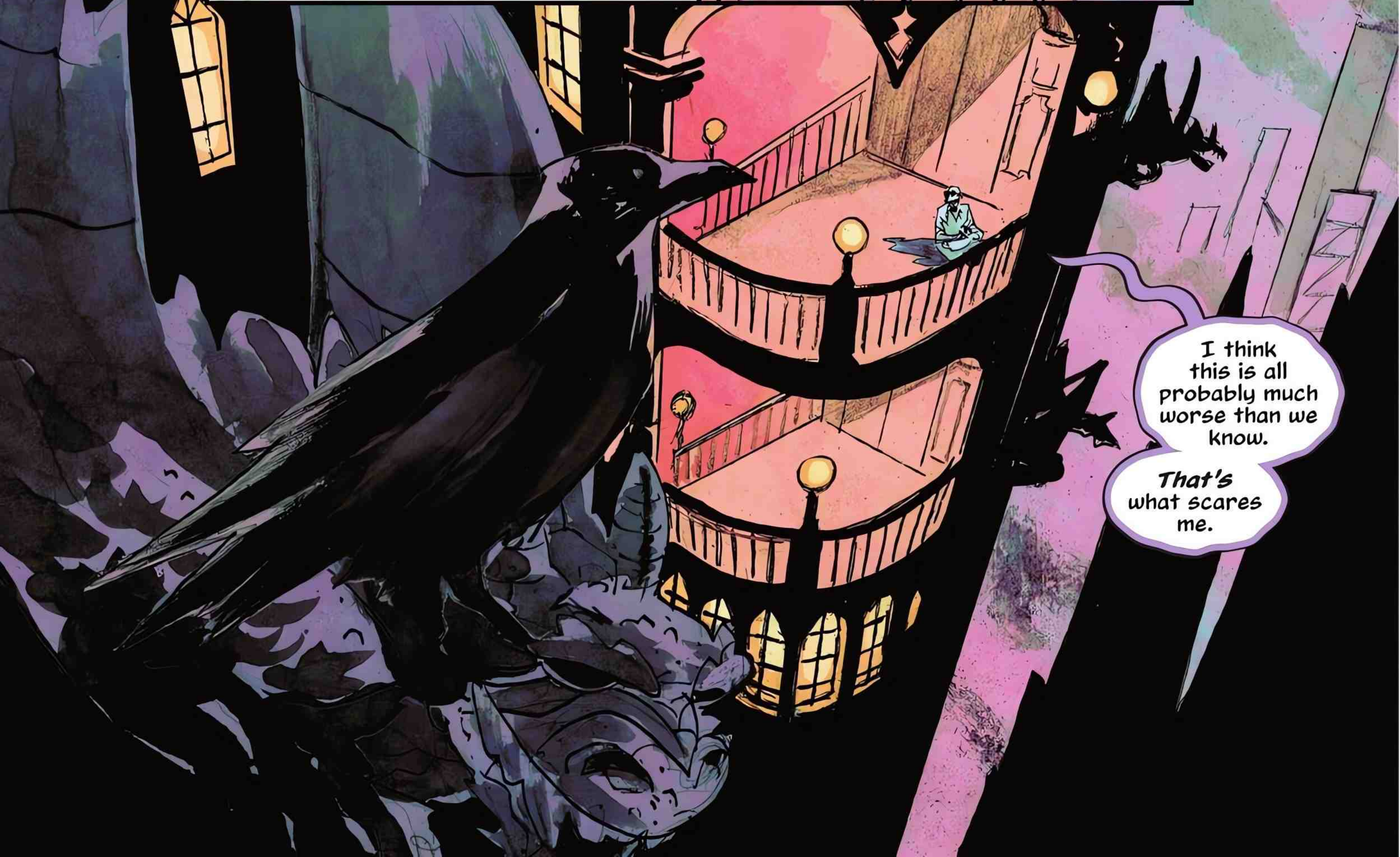


I think what scares me is that *none* of these impossible beings, who know all of these *incredibly* fucked-up weird things, know *why* we were dragged into any of this.



None of them know *why* we see a big smiling naked man that nobody else can see.

But they all seem *scared* out of their *minds*. And these don't seem like people who *get* scared.



I think this is all probably much worse than we know.

That's what scares me.



YOU'RE
REALLY NOT
GONNA STEP
IN.

That would
be unwise
right now,
Matthew.

Not until
I know what
they have
planned.





DAWN OF DC

A
hard-boiled
tale
debuting in
AUGUST

THE PENGUIN

REVENGE IS FOR THE BIRDS!

Written by
Eisner Award Winner

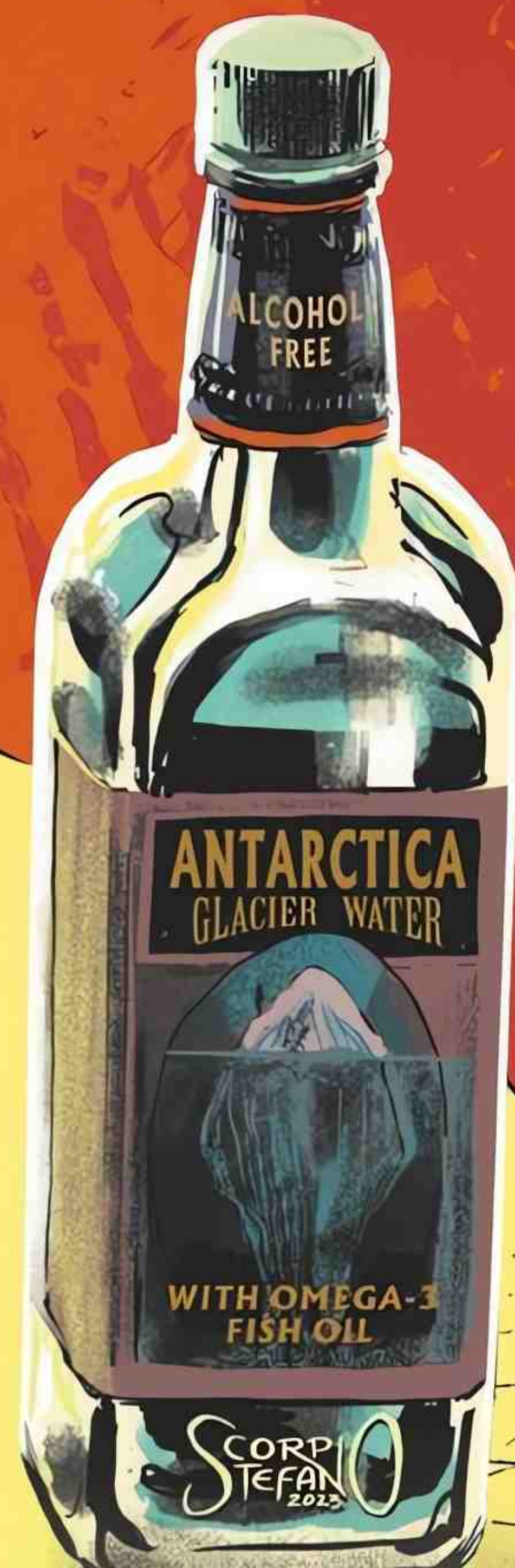
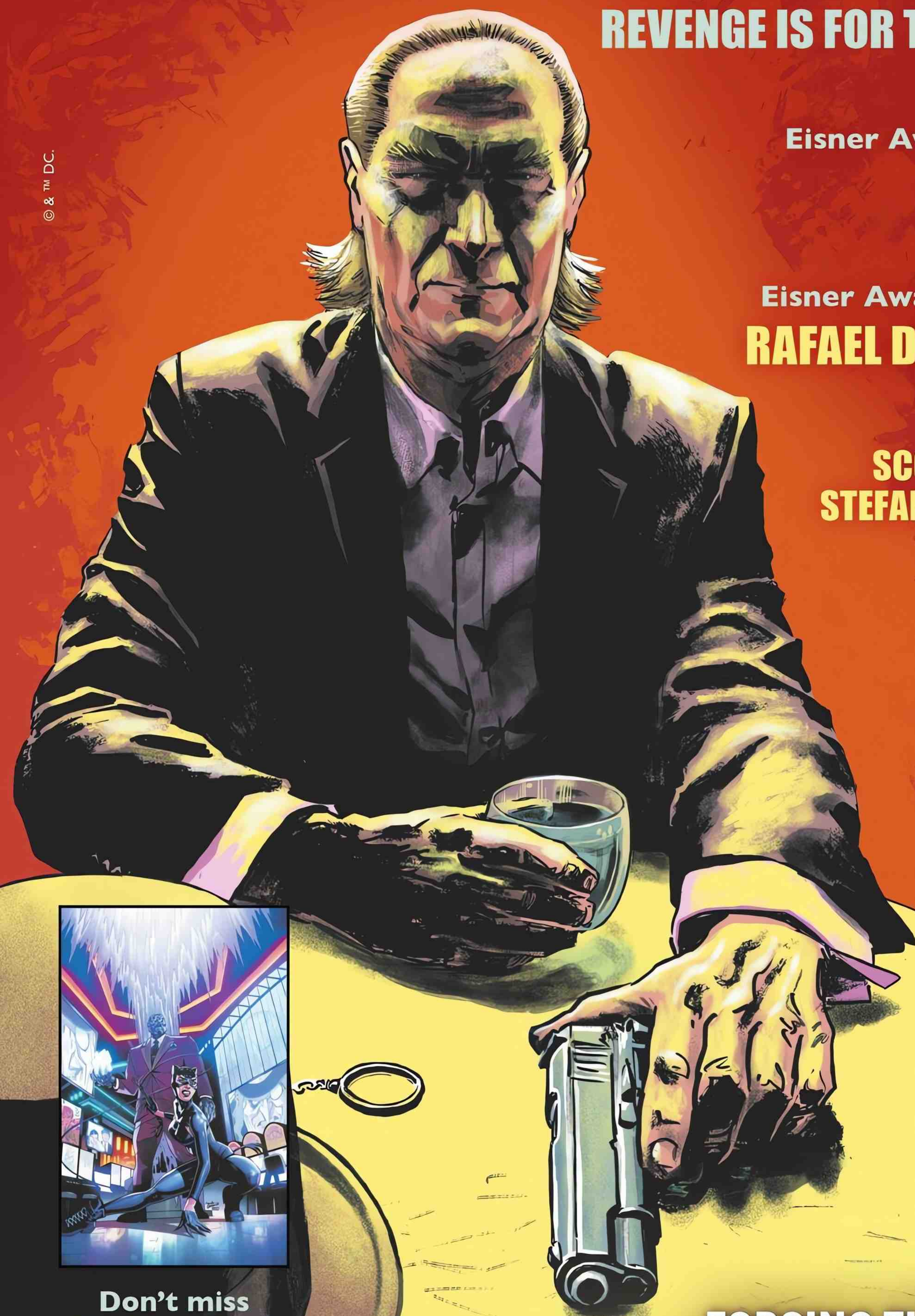
TOM KING

Art by
Eisner Award Nominee

RAFAEL DE LATORRE

Cover by
SCORPIO STEELE
STEFANO GAUDIANO

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Don't miss
The Penguin #0
prelude one-shot!

FORGING THE FUTURE
ONE VILLAIN AT A TIME

DC NATION **SPOTLIGHT ON**

DAWN OF DC

BATMAN/CATWOMAN
THE GOTHAM WAR

**THE BAT AND THE CAT COLLIDE WITH
THE SOUL OF THEIR CITY AT STAKE!**

AUGUST

- ***Batman/Catwoman:
The Gotham War -
Battle Lines #1***

SEPTEMBER

- ***Batman #137***
- ***Catwoman #57***
- ***Batman/Catwoman:
The Gotham War:
Red Hood #1***

OCTOBER

- ***Batman #138***
- ***Catwoman #58***
- ***Batman/Catwoman:
The Gotham War:
Red Hood #2***
- ***Batman/Catwoman:
The Gotham War:
Scorched Earth #1***

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